

**How Do I Arrange For Assistance To A Shelter?**

You must register with St. Lucie County Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, if you are a person who requires transportation to a shelter or a person having medical needs meeting criteria for use of a medical shelter. To register, call 462-8100 and request an application.

**What Special Assistance Might A Person Need To Evacuate?**


If you are a person with a disability and particularly if you live alone, you may need assistance with the following activities in order to evacuate your home during an emergency.

- Physical assistance in leaving the house and transferring to a vehicle.
- Transportation from your home to a shelter, if you are unable to arrange own transportation.

**How Do I Know If I Am Eligible To Go To A Medical Needs Shelter?**

Eligibility for a Medical Shelter is defined as follows;

1. Persons dependent upon health professional to administer injectable medications.

2. Persons requiring daily or more frequent dressing changes by a health care professional.
  3. Persons needing assistance by a health care professional with ostomy management, continuous peritoneal dialysis or indwelling catheters of any kind.
  4. Persons whose activities of daily living are so restricted by immobility that their basic medical needs must be met by others.
  5. Persons who require daily assessment of unstable medical condition by professional nursing personnel, i.e., diabetes, cardiac, cystic fibrosis.
  6. Terminally ill patients who are in need of professional assistance for administering heavy doses of medication.
  7. Any resident whose life depends upon electrically energized equipment within his or her residence. (i.e. suction machines, home dialysis machines, o2 concentrators) Excluding electric wheel chair without other qualifying condition.
  8. Those who depend on oxygen therapy.
  9. Bedridden and require custodial care upon advise of a personal physician. (As per Florida Statutes-does not necessarily mean assigned to Special Needs Facility) Other facilities such as a nursing home or hospital will be utilized.
- If you are on a Life Support System requiring electricity, or require medical supervision, you should register now with the St. Lucie County Department of Public Safety for Special Needs assistance.**
- If you have determined after reading this brochure that you may need assistance in responding to an evacuation order, then call St. Lucie County Department of Public Safety to register as a person with special needs. CALL TODAY.**
- ST. LUCIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**15305 W. Midway Road**  
**Fort Pierce, Florida 34945**  
**Telephone 462-8100**
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**People with Special Needs  
Emergency Preparedness Planning**

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**An information Guide for people  
who may Require Special Assistance  
During an Emergency Evacuation.**

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**Support Organizations for the Special  
Needs Population of St. Lucie County:**

**St. Lucie County Department of Health**

**St. Lucie County Dept. of Public Safety**

**St. Lucie County Human Resources**

**St. Lucie County Veterans Services**

**St. Lucie County School District**

**St. Lucie County Fire District**

**St. Lucie County Emergency Amateur  
Radio Service**

**St. Lucie Medical Center**

**Lawnwood Regional Medical Center**

**St. Lucie County Central Services**

**St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation**

**Hospice of the Treasure Coast**

**County and Municipal Law Enforcement**

**City of Port St. Lucie**

**Council on Aging Community Transit**

**All County, American Ambulance Serv  
Port St. Lucie Volunteer, Coastal  
Ambulance Service**

### Special Needs Emergency Preparedness Planning

If you are a person with a disability, do you know what you’ll do or where you’ll go if you have to evacuate your home due to a hurricane threat? This brochure is designed to help you answer that question. If you decide that you probably could not evacuate your home without help, this brochure offers some suggestions about where to get help.

### Who Are The “People with Special Needs”?

People with special needs are those who will need help in evacuating their home during an emergency due to a disability or require transportation to a shelter.

### What kind of Emergencies Require Evacuation?

St. Lucie County Public Safety informs you when a situation is **life threatening** and when you must leave your home to be safe. Examples are hurricanes, chemical spills or other accidents where life threatening conditions threatens the area where you live.

### When Are Evacuation Orders Given?

Emergency warnings and evacuation orders are given well in advance of a life threatening situation when possible. For example, an evacuation order would be given at a time that would permit clearance of high risk area prior to the

arrival of dangerous winds associated with a hurricane.

### Who Decides What Areas Need Evacuation?

Depending on the type of life threatening emergency, decision for evacuation orders can be made by Local Law Enforcement, County Fire District or County Department of Public Safety. The threat of a hurricane would be an example where the Department of Public Safety would issue evacuation orders for residents living on the barrier islands, living in manufactured or mobile homes and residents living in expected storm surge areas.

### How Are Evacuation Orders Given?

Through use of radio, television, Law Enforcement/Fire District vehicle public address systems, door to door notification.

### Where Should People with Special Needs go In Response to an Evacuation Order?

People who are disabled, like other residents in a community, have several choices of where to go when an evacuation order is given. These include:

- Leaving the Area/Region
- Staying with a friend in a safe location
- Going to a public shelter or a medical shelter.

Each of these choices require prior planning. If you decide to leave the region or stay with a friend, be sure you are on your way before traffic on the highway becomes congested.

### What is a Public Shelter?

Public shelters are operated by the St. Lucie County School District, with the Red Cross assisting in registration at the shelter. Public Shelters are opened during emergency situations when people must evacuate their homes in order to be safe. You should be aware of shelter locations in your neighborhood, but never report to a shelter unless its opening has been announced by the Department of Public Safety through local media. Schools are typically used as public shelters. If you have your own transportation, you do not need to register to use a public shelter. If you require transportation, you must register with St. Lucie County Public Safety, 462-8100, so that transportation can be arranged.

### What is a Medical Needs Shelter?

Medical Needs Shelters are operated by the St. Lucie County Health Department with volunteers from other County Agencies and Port St. Lucie City Agencies. The intent of Medical Needs Shelters is to provide, to the extent practicable, under emergency conditions, in an environment in which the current health of evacuees with medical needs can be sustained. To ensure that you meet eligibility requirements, you must request an application through the St. Lucie County Department of Public Safety/Division of Emergency

Management, 462-8100, to be eligible. The St. Lucie County Medical Needs Shelter is located at the following address:

- The Havert L. Fenn Center  
2000 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

### What must I take to a Shelter?

Public and Medical Needs Shelters will provide you with just that. Shelter. You must bring with you whatever you will need to be minimally comfortable for the time you will be at the shelter. This includes:

Cots, Pillow, blanket, linens. Cots are provided only at the Medical Needs Shelter.

Three (3) day supply of non-perishable food for individual taste and /or special diets, water (1 gal/day per person).

Medications in prescription bottles, medical supplies, vital medical equipment i.e. oxygen concentrators, portable oxygen bottles.

Personal items; important papers (insurance policies), glasses, personal hygiene articles, change of clothing, sweater or jacket, flashlight, quiet games i.e. cards, book, knitting

**NOTE: Only service animals are allowed in shelters.**

**Pets are not allowed in shelters.**